

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-05 L-01 OES-02
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 0814Z

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, MNUC, PARM, FR, US, GW, BR
SUBJECT: FRENCH DEBRIEFING ON GOF-FRG NUCLEAR DIS-
CUSSIONS HELD AT BONN, MARCH 16, 1977

REF: PARIS 07653

1. AT HIS INITIATION, MFA SCIENCE DIRECTOR NAZELLE BRIEFED EMBASSY SCICOUN ON GENERAL DISCUSSIONS HE HAD WITH GERMAN COUNTERPARTS IN BONN ON MARCH 16. THE DISCUSSIONS COVERED TWO GENERAL CATEGORIES, NONPROLIFERATION ISSUES AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE LONDON MEETING, AND THE SECOND CATEGORY, THAT OF THE GERMAN-FRENCH RELATIONS IN NUCLEAR MATTERS. NAZELLE CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS FRANK AND FRIENDLY AND, ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, GAVE THE FRG THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE FORTHCOMING IN HAVING FRANCE UNDERSTAND ITS VIEWS ON THE RECENT FAST-MOVING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FRG, US AND BRAZIL ON SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFER.

2. NAZELLE RECEIVED A BRIEF REVIEW FROM HIS GERMAN HOSTS ON THE MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS THEY HAD HAD WITH THE US. HE UNDERSTOOD THE FRG TO STATE THAT
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THEY HAD A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE US INTERPRETATION OF NONDISCRIMINATION APPLIED TO NUCLEAR RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, BUT AFTER SOME DISCUSSION NAZELLE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE FRG HAD THE SAME INTERPRETATION AS THE US HAS BEEN RECENTLY DISCUSSING. THE FRG WISHES TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON SUCH ISSUES AS REPROCESSING AND

ENRICHMENT BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE A COHERENT APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO RECEIVE REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND THEREAFTER DRAW THE LINE FOR OTHERS NOT TO RECEIVE THE TECHNOLOGY.

3. ON THE MATTER OF DISCRIMINATION, NAZELLE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN VISITED BY THE JAPANESE RECENTLY WHO WERE "SHOCKED" BY THE US VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS CAPABILITIES IN THE BACK END OF THE FUEL CYCLE. NAZELLE ASSUMES THE JAPANESE HAVE FULLY DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH THE GERMANS AND HAVE ADVISED THE GERMANS THAT THE US HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FRANK WITH THE JAPANESE REGARDING ITS VIEWS ON FUTURE JAPANESE REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES. THE FRG APPEARS A BIT MORE CONFIDENT VIS-A-VIS ITS POSITION WITH THE US BUT, ACCORDING TO NAZELLE, THE FRG DOES NOT HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE US HAS BEEN FRANK AND STRAIGHTFORWARD ON ITS VIEWS REGARDING FUTURE FRG REPROCESSING ACTIVITY. APPARENTLY, THE FRG ASSUMES THAT THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR SITUATION VIS-A-VIS THE US AND THAT OF THE JAPANESE VIS-A-VIS THE US IS BASED ON THE EXISTING US AGREEMENT/COMMITMENT WITH EURATOM AND ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES.

4. NAZELLE CHARACTERIZES THE FRENCH POSITION AS BEING SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE US IN WISHING TO PLACE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES. HE PERSONALLY
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FEELS THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO PERMIT REPROCESSING AND PLACE OUR EMPHASIS ON ESTABLISHING SAFEGUARDS AND OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE DIVERSION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE FRG, ACCORDING TO NAZELLE, APPEARS TO BE OF THE VIEW THAT THE US HAS AN OPEN MIND ON THE FUTURE OF REPROCESSING AND

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IN WHAT COUNTRIES AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS IT MIGHT
BE ESTABLISHED.

5. ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, DISCUSSIONS WITH
SECRETARY VANCE ON THE GERMAN-BRAZIL CONTRACT LEFT
BONN OFFICIALS WITH THE FEELING THAT HE HAD AN
UNDERSTANDING OF THE NONDISCRIMINATION ASPECTS OF
THE CONTROVERSIAL CONTRACT AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD
GERMAN DESIRES TO NOT GO BACK ON THEIR SIGNATURE.
NAZELLE INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
TO BE "NEUTRAL" WITH THE FRG REGARDING THE FRG-
BRAZIL CONTRACT DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN. NAZELLE
DID ASK ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDER
THE CONTRACT AND FRG OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY
HAD MADE NO COMMITMENT TO STOP ACTION AND THEY WERE
NOT UNDERTAKING ANY SPECIFIC EFFORTS TO GO AHEAD
WITH THE SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

6. IN THE SECOND CATEGORY OF GENERAL COMMENTS,
THAT RELATING TO GERMAN-FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS
IN NUCLEAR MATTERS, NAZELLE STRESSED WITH HIS BONN
COLLEAGUES THAT IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE TWO COUN-
TRIES HAVE HARMONIOUS POLICIES ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFE-
RATION. NAZELLE MENTIONED THAT DURING THE FRG VISIT
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TO PARIS IN EARLY MARCH THE GERMAN POSITION HAD BEEN
ONE OF FULL ACCEPTANCE OF LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AS ADE-
QUATE AND THAT, UNDER REASONABLE CONDITIONS, SO-
CALLED SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGIES COULD BE EXPORTED.
DURING NAZELLE'S DISCUSSIONS IN BONN ON MARCH 16,
HE FOUND THE GERMANS TO BE SOMEWHAT FOGGY ABOUT THE
BELIEF IN THE ADEQUACY OF LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AND
THAT THEY APPEAR TO ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT THERE
WERE SITUATIONS IN WHICH REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT
TECHNOLOGY SHOULD NOT BE EXPORTED. NAZELLE MADE A

POINT WITH THE GERMANS OF INDICATING THAT FRANCE DID GO ALONG WITH THE US AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TRANSFER OF REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES (FRANCE HAS NOT FORMALLY TAKEN THE STEP ON ENRICHMENT) AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAPABILITIES OF DIRECT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS-GRADE MATERIALS BUT THAT FRENCH POLICY DID NOT QUITE ALIGN WITH US VIEWS IN THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT TAKE STEPS TO BLOCK INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES THROUGH THE LEVERAGE OF ITS SALES OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES. NAZELLE WAS PLEASED WITH THE APPARENT CHANGE IN VIEWS OF THE FRG, FELT THEY WERE THINKING OF VARIOUS FORMULAS AND HE BELIEVES THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE FRUITFUL IN BRINGING FRG VIEWS CLOSER TO THOSE OF THE GOF AND THE US.

7. REVERTING BACK TO THE GERMAN-BRAZIL CONTRACT, NAZELLE NOTED THAT HE HEARD FROM THE GERMANS THAT THEY FELT THAT FURTHER TALKS WOULD BE HELD ON THE MATTER WITH THE US BUT THAT AS OF THIS DATE THE WORST POLITICAL PRESSURE WAS OVER.
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